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# Olsalazine

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Olsalazine*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C1176.

A prodrug of mesalamine (5-Aminosalicylic acid; 5-ASA) with anti-inflammatory activity. Unabsorbed olsalazine passes through gastrointestinal tract and is cleaved by azoreductases, produced by microflora in colon, into 2 active molecules of 5-ASA. 5-ASA exerts its anti-inflammatory action locally by inhibiting cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase activities, thereby reducing the production of prostaglandins and leukotrienes. In addition, mesalamine may act as a scavenger of reactive oxygen free radicals.